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Title: Need to expedite the laying of Angamali-Sabari railway line in Kerala.

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (IDUKKI): I request for immediate intervention of Government for speedy completion of laying of Angamali-Sabari railway line in Kerala. The completion of laying of this railway line could bring the hilly backward regions under rail connectivity and infrastructure development. Moreover millions of Sabarimala pilgrims will be benefitted with this line. Even though the laying of the line was proposed long back, the work on this line has not attained much progress. It is a matter of concern that budget allocation for this line is reducing every year. Since long time the land owners in Ernakulam district have been waiting for compensation against their acquired land. It requires Rs. 153.91 crore for compensation to landowners in the first phase. The current estimated cost of the project is Rs.1556 crore and the Railways have proposed that the State Government should bear 50% of the cost. But the State Government is not in a position to bear 50% share of the project. I humbly request the Government to take immediate measures to speed up the works and complete the project without further delay.